

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 OIC-02 /084 W

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P 171037Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6589

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 17623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT,PORG, IMCO

SUBJECT: NINTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO) AND THIRTY FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF IMCO COUNCIL

REF: (A) LONDON 17153, (B) LONDON 17151

1. SUMMARY: THE ASSEMBLY IN PLENARY SESSIONS FROM 3-14 NOVEMBER 1975, CONSIDERED AND APPROVED ALL AGENDA ITEMS ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE I (ADMINISTRATIVE, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL), COMMITTEE II (TECHNICAL) AND THOSE SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS NOT ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEES. AGENDA ITEM 29 WAS DELETED BY THE ASSEMBLY ON 4 NOVEMBER AFTER IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE SUBJECT WAS NO LONGER RELEVANT. THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND TWO NON AGENDA RELATED RESOLUTIONS, ONE ON IMCO/ILO JURISDICTIONAL MATTERS RELATING TO SAFETY ON SUB-STANDARD SHIPS AND ONE ON INTRODUCTION OF SPANISH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE IN IMCO, WERE ALSO CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED. REPORTS OF ASSEMBLY ACTIONS FORWARDED SEPTEL AS INDICATED ON AGENDA ITEMS 10 (CONVENTION AMENDMENTS) SEPTEL PENDING, 13 (HEAD-QUARTERS FACILITY) SEPTEL PENDING, 24 (ELECTIONS) LONDON 17538, AND COMMITTEE II (ITEMS 7(A), (B) AND (C), 8, 12(A) AND (C), 17, 20, 21 AND 22) LONDON 17537. END SUMMARY.

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2. (A) AGENDA ITEM 4. THE ASSEMBLY HEARD FROM THE SEC

GEN OF THE COLSIDERABLE SUCCESS HE HAD HAD IN EXTRACTING PAYMENT OF ARREARS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENT BY PANAMA OF ITS SIZEABLE ARREARS. IN LIGHT OF THIS, AND CONSISTENT WITH THE USUAL POSTURE THAT IMCO ASSEMBLIES HAVE STRUCK ON THIS QUESTION, IT WAS DECIDED BY ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ONCE AGAIN TO WAIVE FOR THE 9TH AQSEMBLY THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 42 OF THE IMCO CONVENTION SUSPENDING THE VOTING RIGHTS OF DELIN-QUENT MEMBERS. ONCE AGAIN, TOO, THE ASSEMBLY SALVED ITS CONSCIENCE BY WARNING DARKLY THAT THERE WOULD BE STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF ARTICLE 42 IN THE FUTURE.

(B) AGENDA ITEM 12(C). THE ASSEMBLY NOTED THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEMS (INMARSAT), THE INTER-SESSIONAL WORK WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND THE PROVISION WHICH THE CONFERENCE REQUESTED FOR A RESUMED SESSION FEBRUARY 9-27, 1976. PROVISIONS FOR THIS WERE THEREAFTER APPROVED UNDER THE 1976-77 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET.

(C) AGENDA ITEM 14. THE ASSEMBLY INCREASED THE FUNDING OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND FOR THE 1976-77 FINANCIAL PERIOD, ESTABLISHING IT AT \$250,000.

(D) AGENDA ITEM 15. THE ASSEMBLY APPROVED THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORTS FOR THE 1972-73 AND 1974-75 FINANCIAL PERIODS.

(E) AGENDA ITEM 16. THE ASSEMBLY APPROVED A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR 1975 OF \$220,000, ESTABLISHING THIS AS A CEILING WITHIN WHICH ONLY THE ACTUAL AMOUNT REQUIRED WOULD BE ASSESSED TO MEMBERS ONCE THE BOOKS ARE CLOSED ON THE YEAR.

(F) AGENDA ITEM 18. THE ASSEMBLY AGREED ONCE AGAIN TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF EXPRESSING THE IMCO BUDGET IN STERLING.

(G) AGENDA ITEM 19. INTERVENTIONS WERE MADE BY MEXICO, ROMANIA AND USSR EXPRESSINQ CONCERN OVER THE EXPANDING IMCO BUDGET AND THE CONSEQUENT INCREASE IN ASSESSMENTS TO MEMBER STATES. MEXICO ABSTAINED FROM APPROVING THE BUDGET AND ASSESSMENTS PENDING APPROVAL BY THE APPROPRIATE MEXICAN LEGISLATIVE

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BODY. ROMANIA ADVISED THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE INCREASED ASSESSMENT IN 1976/77 TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET WHILE CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAUTIONED THAT THE RATE OF BUDGET INCREASE MUST BE SLOWED DOWN IN THE FUTURE. OBSERVING ASSEMBLY DECISIONS TO ACCOMMODATE CHINESE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS, EGYPT REQUESTED THAT ARABIC ALSO BE INTRODUCED AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE. USDEL RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER THE BUDGET WAS THE PROPER FORUM TO

APPROVE NEW OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. THE US FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT PROPOSITION APPROPRIATELY WOULD HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED AS A PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

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ASSEMBLY APART FROM BUDGETARY DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS DECIDED THAT SPANISH WOULD BE REGARDED AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION BEGINNING WITH THE 1978-79 BIENNIAL. FRANCE SUGGESTED THAT ONE UNALLOCATED MEETING WEEK IN 1977 BE SPECIFICALLY TAGGED FOR THIS PURPOSE OR THAT THE CONFERENCE ON FISHING VESSEL SAFETY IN 1977 BE REDUCED FROM FOUR TO THREE WEEKS. STRONG OPPOSITION TO FISHING VESSEL CONFERENCE REDUCTION WAS VOICED. THE ASSEMBLY VOTED 52 (US), 0, 11 TO ASSIGN THE UNALLOCATED MEETING WEEK TO THE WORKING GROUP.

(H) AGENDA ITEM 20. AFTER A PERUVIAN PROPOSAL TO EXAMINE IN DEPTH THE SCOPE OF IMCO ACTIVITIES VIS-A-VIS LAW OF THE SEA RECEIVED NO SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT, THE ASSEMBLY NOTED WITHOUT FURTHER DEBATE THE SEC. GEN'S REPORT ON IMCM'S RELATIONS WITH THE UN AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DURING THE PAST BIENNIAL.

(I) AGENDA ITEM 23. THE ASSEMBLY NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT THE REPORT OF THE SEC. GEN. ON ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT.

(J) AGENDA ITEM 25. ERTEL (POLAND) AND CLAPPIN (US) WERE RE-ELECTED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS THE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE MEMBER RESPECTIVELY OF THE IMCO STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE.

(K) AGENDA ITEM 26. THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERAL OF THE UK WAS RE-APPOINTED AS EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING 1 JULY 1976.

(L) AGENDA ITEM 27. THE ASSEMBLY NOTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION THE LMCO PROGRAM ON PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

(M) NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON ADOPTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT OTHER THAN PRO FORMA RHET-ORIC BY THE SOVIET BLOC AND PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA RELATIVE TO KMREAN AND VIET NAMESE REPRESENTATION QUESTIONS.

(N) LIBERIA INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE IMCO/ILO JURISDICTIONAL MATTERS THAT HE FIRST RAISED IN COMMITTEE II ON 6 NOVEMBER. (RE LONDON 17151 AND STATE 26587L.). THE RESOLUTION FIRMLY ESTABLISHES IMCO AS HAVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTING MARITIME SAFETY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS WITH REGARD TO SUB-STANDARD SHIPS. RECOGNIZING THAT ILO ALSO HAS A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN MARITIME SAFETY, THE RESOLUTION AFFIRMS THE WILLINGNESS OF IMCO TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH ILO IN MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING THE FULL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EMPHASIZING THE PREEMINENCE OF IMCO IN MATTERS RELATED TO SAFETY ON SUB-STANDARD SHIPS. AFTER PROTRACTED DISCUSSION AND MINOR CHANGES TO THE RESOLUTION, THE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE AMENDED RESOLUTION 3L (US, 6, 25.

(O) A LATIN AMERICAN RESOLUTION TO AMEND RULE 29 TO INCLUDE SPANISH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF IMCO QUICKLY WON OVERWHELMING WARM SUPPORT AND WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT OPPOSITION 64 (US), 0, 3.

(P) IN ITS 35TH REGULAR SESSION HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER, THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED EDWARDS (USA) AS C AIRMAN AND ERTEL (POLAND) AS VICE PRESIDENT.

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